

REPORT  
OF  
CAPTAIN W. B. FRANKLIN,  
IN CHARGE OF

*The Capitol extension, made in compliance with a resolution of the Senate on the feasibility and expense of moving the Senate Chamber from its present position, so that it will take in the windows on the north end, or east or west sides of the Capitol.*

APRIL 9, 1860.—Read and ordered to lie on the table. Motion to print referred to the Committee on Printing. Report in favor of printing the usual number submitted, considered, and agreed to.

OFFICE U. S. CAPITOL EXTENSION,  
Washington, April 9, 1860.

SIR: I have the honor to submit the following report and estimates, in obedience to the resolution of the Senate of the 19th ultimo.

The resolution contemplates a report upon the feasibility and expense of moving the Senate Chamber from its present position, so that it will take in the windows on the north end, or east or west sides of the Capitol.

1. *Removal to the east side.*

This side is the main front of the north wing. It contains the main vestibule, and, were the Senate Chamber to be moved to this side, the main entrance and vestibule would have to be closed, as part of the vestibule would have to be included in the Chamber. It would be destructive to the use of this front to carry out this plan, and the front would either have to be abandoned as an entrance or a new one would have to be designed. I do not think it would be feasible to make this move, unless the front of the Capitol were completely reversed.

2. *Removal to the north end.*

This alteration can be made by moving the Chamber through the north corridor behind the President's seat, and by throwing this corridor, the retiring-room, and the President's and Vice-President's rooms into the floor of the Senate.

I take it for granted, in making this report, that the area and cloak room arrangements of the present Chamber are satisfactory; and, in

studying this change, an arrangement as near like that now existing as is possible was contemplated, taking in the north windows, or making the north wall of the Capitol the north end of the Senate Chamber. The windows of the principal story will then be on the Senate floor, and those of the third story on the gallery floor.

To make the change, it will be necessary to take down the north wall of the Chamber. This wall extends to the roof, and forms one of its supports, on account of which fact the roof will have to be taken down and rebuilt.

The walls separating the President's retiring and Vice-President's rooms must be taken down.

A new east and west corridor must be made, which will extend from one principal stairway to the other, and which will be partially lighted by the two skylights of those stairways.

The corridor in the south end of the wing will be closed and turned into four rooms, which must answer the purposes of those taken into the Chamber under the new arrangement; or the rooms on the west, now used as offices of the Senate, can be made the President's, Vice-President's, and retiring rooms. These details, however, are merely indicated to show that certain alterations, in addition to the mere change of position of the Chamber, will have to be made, and not for the purpose of settling a design.

The heating and ventilating apparatus must be altered to meet the requirements of the new position and exposure of the Chamber, and a large part of the attic story must be taken down and rebuilt. Certain alterations in the interior of the basement must be made on account of the new position of the south wall of the Chamber, which, of course, was not contemplated in the design which has been carried out. A radical change will have to be made in the basement arches which are under the Senate Chamber. In fact, an entire demolition and reconstruction of at least one half of the interior of the north wing must be made if the Chamber be removed to the north end.

Careful estimates have been made of the cost of the alteration, predicated upon the presumption that the iron work about the galleries and ceiling can be used in the altered Chamber.

The amount required is \$165,000.

In this estimate nothing is put down for ornamenting the walls or ceilings.

A plan and vertical section of the north wing have been made, showing the arrangement of the building if the Chamber be moved as above indicated. They are transmitted with this report.

### 3. *Removal to the west side.*

A plan, showing the position of the Chamber removed to the west side, is also transmitted.

The horizontal dimensions of the Chamber now in use, excluding the galleries, are eighty-four feet by fifty-one feet. Those of the Chamber, as designed for the west side, are sixty-six and a half feet by forty-one feet; but the spaces under the galleries are open, so that the actual area of the floor will be but little smaller than that of the existing

Chamber. The small dimensions are given in order to save the retiring-room of the Senate, which is highly ornamented with polished marble, and is a very beautiful and costly work.

It will be seen that in this arrangement a part of the interior of the building will be difficult to light, and, under the best dispositions that can be made, will be inconvenient and uncomfortable. But this design has the advantages of giving windows on two sides of the Hall, and, as had been remarked above, it saves one very beautiful room.

The cost of the removal to the west side will be \$200,000.

In the vertical section referred to, the details of the construction of the roof are not given; the truss is only sketched. The roof will be a difficult piece of work, and the truss is only put in to finish the drawing, not to settle its design.

In conclusion, I have the honor to report, that it is practicable to so alter and reconstruct the present room occupied by the Senate; that it may be extended to the windows on the north end, or west side of the north wing of the Capitol, and that the expense of the extension to the north end will be \$165,000, and that of the extension to the west side will be \$200,000. The time required, in both cases, will be two years from the date of commencement of the work.

It is practicable, also, to place the Chamber on the east side of the north wing, but placing it there would involve nearly the reconstruction of the building.

I am, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

W. B. FRANKLIN,

*Capt. Top. Eng's, in charge U. S. Capitol Extension.*

HON. JOHN C. BRECKINRIDGE,

*Vice President of the United States,  
and President of the Senate.*

